Amendments to the claims

Please amend claims 1, 3, 12, 18 and 20 as follows:

Claim 1 (original). A method for tracking the use of a web tool by a web user, comprising:

　　　providing a web user through a web user computer access to a web tool;

　　　transmitting to the web user computer one or more web page files in connection with the user accessing the web tool; and

　　　inserting within at least one of the web page files, using the web tool, a command having embedded user information associated with the web user's use of the web tool, the command causing the web user computer to transmit directly to a server, designated within the command, a request that includes the embedded user information, wherein the user information is stored in a database in response to the request being processed by the designated server.

Claim 2 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein the command comprises a mark up language image tag.

Claim 3 (currently amended). The method of claim 2 wherein the command includes a Broken Image Tracking ("BIT") BIT tag with the user information embedded in a BIT URL.

Claim 4 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein the web tool is provided to a plurality of web users with each user receiving at least one web page having a command with embedded user information, wherein the user information for each user is transmitted to the designated server.

Claim 5 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein the user information is stored in an error log within the designated server.

Claim 6 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein the request is a request for retrieving an image file from the designated server, which has an Internet program with an error log, wherein the Internet program stores the user information in the error log in response to an error being generated by the server not finding the file that is to be retrieved.

Claim 7 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein the request is a request for retrieving an image file from the designated server, which has an Internet program with an error log, wherein the processed request generates an error when the image file is not found by the server, the method further comprising identifying the request in response to the generated error and storing the user information in a database that is separate from the error log.

Claim 8 (original). The method of claim 1 wherein the act of inserting includes inserting the command in the at least one web page file so that it causes substantially no error graphic to be displayed to the user in response to an image file designated within the command not being retrieved.

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Claim 9 (original). A system for tracking web users use of a web tool, comprising:

a web tool server configured to be operably connected to one or more web user computers, the web tool server having a web tool program for providing to each web user computer one or more web page files in a web tool session, the web tool server inserting within at least one of the web page files associated with the session a command having embedded user information associated with a web user's use of the web tool; and

a designated server configured to be operably connected to the one or more web user computers, wherein the command when executed by a web user computer causes the web user computer to transmit to the designated server a request that includes the embedded user information, wherein the user information is stored in a database in response to the request being processed by the designated server.

Claim 10 (original). The system of claim 9 wherein the database is an error log within the designated server.

Claim 11 (original). The system of claim 10 wherein the designated server includes an Internet program for implementing the designated server as a web server, wherein the Internet program stores user information from a request into the error log in response to an error being generated by the request at the designated server.

Claim 12 (currently amended). The system of claim 11 wherein the request includes a <u>Broken Image Tracking ("BIT")</u> B̶I̶T̶ URL with a designated broken image file that cannot be found within the designated server, which causes the error to be generated by the Internet program.

Claim 13 (original). The system of claim 9 wherein the designated server includes an Internet program for implementing a web server with an error log, wherein the user information is stored in the database separate from the error log.

Claim 14 (original). The system of claim 13 wherein the Internet program includes a BIT module for storing the user information in the database rather than the error log.

Claim 15 (original). The system of claim 9 wherein the command includes a BIT tag that is implemented with a mark-up language tag.

Claim 16 (original). The system of claim 15 wherein the mark up language tag is an HTML image tag.

Claim 17 (original). The system of claim 9 wherein the Web tool server and designated server are implemented in the same computer.

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Claim 18 (currently amended). A web tool system having a the capability of tracking a user's use of a web tool, comprising:

a web tool server communicatively linked to a web user computer for providing a web user with access to a web tool, the web tool server having a web tool program for generating and providing to the web user computer one or more web page files in connection with the web user engaging in a session with the web tool;

a designated server communicatively linked to the web user computer, the designated server including a web server with an error log; and

a user information database server communicatively linked to the designated server, wherein the web tool program inserts into at least one of the one or more web tool pages for a web user session, a command having embedded user information associated with the web user's use of the web tool, the command causing the web user computer to transmit to the designated server a request that includes the embedded user information, wherein the designated server transfers the user information from the request to the user information database in response to processing the received request.

Claim 19 (original). The system of claim 18 wherein the request causes the designated server to generate a broken image error, the designated server including a module for transferring the user information into the user information database rather than the error log in response to detecting the generated broken image error.

Claim 20 (currently amended). The system of claim 18 wherein the command is a BIT tag that includes a Broken Image Tracking ("BIT") BIT URL with a broken image file designation.

Claim 21 (original). A computer program product for tracking the use of a web tool by a web user, the product having computer readable instructions thereon that when executed cause a computer to perform the following acts:

provising a web user through a web user computer access to a web tool;

transmitting to the web user computer one or more web page files in connection with the user accessing the web tool; and

inserting within at least one of the web page files a command having embedded user information associated with the web user's use of the web tool, the command causing the web user computer to transmit to a server, designated within the command, a request that includes the embedded user information, wherein the user information is stored in a database in response to the request being processed by the designated server.

(End of Amendment "A".)

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